

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EI

SUBJECT: IRISH INDEPENDENT ARTICLE ON SEAN DONLON

1. FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN IRISH INDEPENDENT
AUGUST 16 UNDER TITLE "EXPERT ON THE NORTH IS NEW
ENVOY TO US." BEGIN TEXT:

2. "APPOINTMENT OF MR. SEAN DONLON, AGED 37, AS
IRELAND'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES, IS
EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY BY THE DEPARTMENT
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE WILL SUCCEED MR. JOHN
GERALD MOLLOY, AGED 62, WHO IS EXPECTED TO BECOME
IRELAND'S REPRESENTATIVE AT THE VATICAN.

3. MR. DONLON IS ONE OF THE FOREMOST AUTHORITIES
ON NORTHERN IRELAND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS, HAVING BEEN ATTACHED TO THE NORTHERN
IRELAND AFFAIRS SECTION SINCE 1972. HE WAS VERY
MUCH INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATIONS MADE BY THE
DEPARTMENT WHEN IRELAND DREW UP ITS CASE TO THE
EUROPEAN COMMISSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON TORTURE AND
INHUMAN TREATMENT OF DETAINEES IN THE NORTH. THE
CASE WENT ON TO THE COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, VIN-
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DICATING IRELAND'S DECISION TO BRING IT.

4. A NEW AWARENESS OF THE NORTHERN IRELAND SCENE
AND WHAT IS REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE A LASTING SETTLEMENT
IS EVIDENT AMONG LEADING US POLITICIANS. MR. DONLON
WILL BE GOING TO WASHINGTON AT A TIME WHEN IT IS
CLEAR THE US GOVERNMENT IS READY TO BACK MOVES

THAT WOULD SEE THE TWO COMMUNITIES WORKING TOGETHER
IN THE NORTH. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS ALREADY LET
IT BE KNOWN THE US WOULD GIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT
TO POLITICAL STRUCTURES, STEMMING FROM INSTITUTIONS
THAT WOULD WORK FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE PEOPLE
ON ALL SIDES IN THE SIX COUNTIES.

5. MR. DONLON KNOWS THE SCENE AT FIRST HAND AND
IN RECENT YEARS HAS BUILT UP VALUABLE CONTACTS IN
THE NORTH. HE SHOULD PROVE AN OUTSTANDING
REPRESENTATIVE." SHANNON

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